



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### **Mass Intentions**

*Week of October 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>*

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#### **Monday October 16**

*Gerard Croke; Bessie Redmond;  
Pat Brennan*

#### **Tuesday October 17**

*Carol Pike; Peter & Mary Furlong;  
Thomas McCormick*

#### **Wednesday October 18**

*Frank Martin; Jan Williams;  
Nancy Walsh*

#### **Thursday October 19**

*Harris & Betty Cull; Helen Smith;  
Clarence & Ann Woodford*

#### **Friday October 20**

*Sheila & Jim Hanlon; Catherine Humphries;  
Special Intention (DC)*

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### **Parish Schedule:**

#### **Sunday Mass:**

**Saturday 4:00pm St Paul's**

**Sunday 9:00am St Francis**

**11:00am St Paul's**

#### **Daily Mass:**

**Monday to Friday 9:30am**

Daily Masses take place at  
our St. Paul's Site

#### **Parish Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday:  
8:30am - 4:00pm

Friday: 8:30am - 12:00pm

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### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Join us for Adoration and  
Benediction every **Tuesday, 2:00  
to 3:30 pm** in the church. Prayer  
will include the Divine Mercy  
Chaplet.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays:**

**8:30 to 9:15 am**

**Saturdays 3-3:45pm**

**By appointment:**

Please call 709-726-9924 or email

[info@divinmercynl.com](mailto:info@divinmercynl.com)

### **Sacrament of the Sick & Home Visits**

Do you know someone in hospital or who  
is homebound with health concerns?  
Arrange a visit for the Sacrament of the  
Sick or to receive Holy Communion. Call  
the Parish Office at 709-726-9924

### **Divine Mercy Parish Contact Information:**

Divine Mercy Parish, 340A Newfoundland Drive, St. John's, NL A1A 3R9

709-726-9924 [www.divinmercynl.com/](http://www.divinmercynl.com/) email: [info@divinmercynl.com](mailto:info@divinmercynl.com)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/divinmercyparishnl](https://www.facebook.com/divinmercyparishnl)

Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. Pastor Email: [john@ekon.ca](mailto:john@ekon.ca) Telephone 416-417-1513

# Pastor's Note

Forgetfulness is a serious difficulty we face in our faith. St. Ignatius of Loyola wrote in his prayer called the *Suscipe*, "Grant me your love and your grace, that is enough for me." I have prayed these words many times. I have wanted them to be my own words and sentiment for decades. Yet, there are many times in which I forget, I forget what (that is, who) I most truly and deeply desire. So, I look to things, any thing, to fill me up, to replace the one who is the desire of my heart. During the pilgrimage from which I just returned, one day I was sitting in a church by myself and realized my forgetfulness. I realized how I forget that the Lord has given and gives everything he possesses to me. He has given me his mom, he has given me his Spirit and Father, he has given me even his life. He has given each of us everything he has. And everything he has "is enough for me," in truth, it is more than enough, "my cup overflows." This forgetfulness or distraction of focus can be heard in the parable Jesus gives us this week.

The Lord presents a parable in which he compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding banquet. A king has prepared a wedding feast for his son and has invited many guests. Since the guests hadn't arrived, the king sends servants to collect them. They refuse the invitation twice and "seized his slaves, mistreated them and killed them." The king became angry and "sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city." He also again sent the servants a third time. This time, however, he told them to go "into the main streets

and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." In the end, "the wedding hall was filled with guests." Like those who were first invited, distractions can make our focus shift. We can forget who it is we most truly and deeply desire. A sort of panic or fear then sets in and we look for things to us up, to unconsciously replace the desire of our hearts. The attempt or attempts fail. But rather than be a moment to remember or refocus, we can grasp all the more fearfully for an adequate replacement. It becomes like "going down the rabbit hole," the more we fear the more we grasp and the more we grasp the more we fear. Forgetfulness can be a serious problem for us. Therefore, we must remember the one we most truly and deeply desire. The one whose love is the only love big enough to fill us.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. ... You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

"Grant me your love and grace, that is enough for me." Lord, this is more than enough – it is everything.

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## First Reconciliation Program

Our Preparation Program for First Confessions for Children (ages 7 and above) has begun. If you were unable to make the orientation meeting or have yet to register your child(ren) for our Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion, it's not too late. Just contact the Parish Office for a registration form or contact Maria Kelsey at 709-727-6157.

## Praying the Rosary in the Month of October

The Catholic Women's League and members of our parish will gather in the church (St. Paul's site) following the 9:30 am weekday Mass to pray the Rosary throughout the month of October, dedicated to the devotion of the Rosary. All are welcome to join in this most beautiful devotion.

On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, 2023, Pope Francis released his latest reflection, entitled, "**Laudate Deum.**" The Apostolic Exhortation follows up on the Holy Father's 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'* and focuses on the environment, technology, politics and the poor. A copy can be found on the Archdiocesan webpage: [www.rcsj.org](http://www.rcsj.org)

## Daily Readings:

### Week of October 15-22

#### Sunday, October 15

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20  
Matthew 22:1-14

#### Monday, October 16

Romans 1:1-7  
Luke 11:29-32

#### Tuesday, October 17

Romans 1:16-25  
Luke 11:37-41

#### Wednesday, October 18

2 Timothy 4:10-17b  
Luke 10:1-9

#### Thursday, October 19

Romans 3:21-30  
Luke 11:47-54

#### Friday, October 20

Romans 4:1-8  
Luke 12:1-7

#### Saturday, October 21

Romans 4:13, 16-18  
Luke 12:8-12

## Offertory Collection Week of October 8

Offertory	\$ 5,305.00
Dues	\$ 160.00
Food Bank	\$ 275.00
Needs of the Cdn Church	\$ 35.00
Students for the Priesthood	\$ 185.00
World Missions	\$ 25.00

*E-transfers can be made through*  
[dmparishnl@outlook.com](mailto:dmparishnl@outlook.com)

*(Please include your full name and a message indicating what the E-transfer is for)*

*Thank you for your continuing generosity.  
God Bless!*

## Tribute Dinner for Rev. Fr. William Browne, S.J.

The Knights of Columbus of Divine Mercy Parish (St. Paul's Council 11776) is holding a Tribute Dinner in honour of Rev. Fr. William Browne, S.J. on Thursday, November 16, at Columbus Hall (51 St. Clare Ave). The doors will open at 6pm and a Turkey Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Entertainment/Dance: Brian Finn; Cash Bar; Tickets - \$35. Tickets are available from Ray English, who will be available after Masses for those who would like to purchase tickets. You can also contact Ray at 709-754-0780.

## Catholic Women's General Meeting

The CWL General Meeting will take place on Tuesday October 17 at 10:30am at Virginia Water Contemplative Centre, 47 Parsonage Drive, off Logy Baby Rd. Sister Mary Dower, PBVM, Retreat Director at the Centre, will speak on "Change Happening in Our Lives". There will also be an introduction on the new CWL Resolution. Social will follow. If you would like more information on new CWL Resolution, "Combating Textile Waste in Canada", please pick up a copy of the plan in the church foyer after Mass.

There will be a CWL BABY SHOWER in the church foyer (St. Paul's site) before and after today's Masses. It is not a "shower" in the usual way. Instead, you are invited to drop a gift for a newborn to 2-year-old in a basket in the foyer. Monetary donations are also welcome. All the gifts will be donated to the Centre for Life and Single Parents Association. Thank you for your support.

## Knight of Columbus General Meeting:

Archbishop E. P. Roche 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus will meet on Tuesday, October 24 at 7pm in the foyer of Divine Mercy Parish (St. Paul's site). All are invited to join in the Rosary and speaker events. Only members may attend the business meeting which follows at 8pm.

# From the Pews

*This week we introduce a new, periodic segment to our Bulletin: From the Pews. It is written by Mr. Mike Bautista, a member of Divine Mercy Parish. Mike looks at his experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the difference it has made in life and faith. This is part I.*

## What the Spiritual Exercises mean to me.

I first did the Spiritual Exercises as the Chair of St. Bonaventure’s College, which reopened as a Jesuit school in 1999. I did them again about 10 years later. I want to share what it has meant for me, and what it might mean for you.

St. Ignatius outlined his spirituality in his *Spiritual Exercises*, originally written as a handbook for a thirty-day retreat. Foundational to the Exercises is its *Principal and Foundation*, a realization that one achieves through the preparatory phase.

### Principle and Foundation (paraphrased version):

*God wanted someone with whom he could share his infinite love. God freely made us out of love so that we might share our lives with him together in love, for if anyone showed us that much love, what else would we want to do but to be with him and love back?*

*God made everything else on the earth to help us find our way to him in heaven when the time comes. We have to learn how to use everything else, choosing what helps us, and leaving alone what doesn’t.*

*So we don’t have to worry about whether we are rich or poor, healthy or sick, or other earthly things, for if we accept God’s love, and make the right choices, and find our way to him at the end of the day, what else matters?*

And so, how can anyone be anything but happy, and free from anxiety when you come to realize this basic tenet of life – that God loves us - INFINITELY. And when someone hugs you that tight, holds you so sweetly, no matter what you do or say, no matter what you don’t do or say, no matter what happens - how can you help but love Him back, hug Him back. And then to consider the entire earth, the universe and everything in it, on it, above it, under it, is there for us to use to find our way to Him -is that not a wondrous way to see the world?

Life then becomes filled with opportunities, though, sometimes, we have to try hard to see them. Each moment, each thought, is a chance to choose God or to not choose God. Even in suffering, physical or mental, we can choose the embrace of One who will always care, hold our hand through all, share the heavy burden with us, even if He cannot take the hurt away. Or we can choose to tough it out alone.

This is only the beginning of The Spiritual Exercises, the heart of the Society of Jesus. Millions of people have taken the journey of the Exercises, which were written 500 years ago by St. Ignatius. “... then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.” (Jeremiah 20:9)

That’s how it feels when you realize what Ignatius realized.  
(More to follow.)

## Other Notes:

- Annual Knights of Columbus Rosary and Light Procession: Tuesday October 24, 7:30pm @ the Basilica of St. John the Baptist.
- Next Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Course: October 28 @ the Pastoral Center (200 Military Rd.) Couples register at <https://rcsj.org/chancer/marriage-preparation/register>

- **Save the Dates: Two Ignatian Spirituality Series by the Atlantic Ignatian Ministry:**

1. *Seeing With Heart: October 19, November 2 & 9 7:30 pm (NT)*
2. *Advent Series: Experiencing Prayer and Spiritual Conversations: November 23, 30, December 7 & 14 7:30 pm (NT)*

*For more info or to register, email [atlanticignatianministry@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticignatianministry@gmail.com)*

- Applications are now open for Knights of Columbus State Council Scholarships. Application Deadline is October 31. Information on the scholarships and the applications can be found at [www.kofcni.org](http://www.kofcni.org).
- *Let’s Talk About Grief and Bereavement:* Outreach to Seniors Zoom session October 18, 9:30am To register: [outreach@seniorsnl.ca](mailto:outreach@seniorsnl.ca) or call 709-737-2333.